**Price regularization fund**

3981. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

( a) the steps taken to ensure remunerative prices for the farmers ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to earmark price regularization fund to ensure remunerative prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of MSPs. The MSP thus fixes is a guaranteed minimum price which the farmers are offered by the designated Central and State agencies in the event market prices tend to fall below that level. However, if the market price is more than the MSP fixed by the Government, farmers are free to realize a higher price by selling their produce in the open market.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal.

**Establishment of Bamboo Centre of Excellence**

3982. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for establishment of Bamboo Centre of Excellence for the promotion of bamboo products ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has received a proposal from the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra, on 26th March, 2007 for setting up of a Bamboo Centre of

Excellence at Thiruvananthapuram. The proposal seeks a financial assistance of Rs. 30 lakhs for land development, building infrastructure, machineries, training and skill upgradation, construction of demonstration and display units, etc.

(c) The proposal submitted by the Karala State Nirmithi Kendra has been referred to the State Government for necessary comments.

**Setting up of the National Rainfed Area Authority**

3983. MR. PRAMILA BOHIDAR :
SHRI B.J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority which would help to minimize the dependency on rains of the unirrigated areas :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is total dependency of our agriculture on rains; and

(d) how for it is proposed to be minimized through assured water irrigation coverage and improved water management practices under the above project, especially with reference to Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been established *vide* Government Order dated 3rd November, 2006.

(b) NRAA has a two tier structure. The first tier is the Governing Board that will provide necessary leadership and appropriate coordination in implementation of Programmes. The Governing Board is chaired by the Union Agriculture Minister and co-chaired by the Union Rural Development Minister. The second tier is the Executive Committee consisting of technical experts and representatives from stakeholder Ministries .The Executive Committee is headed by a full time CEO and will also have five other full time technical experts. The mandate of the Authority are :

1. To prepare a perspective plan outlining the national strategy and road map for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed farming areas.